

17. (original) The bracket of claim 14 in which said second recess includes a pair of substantially aligned notches, each of which fixedly interengages said base and said second side wall of said channel.

18. (original) The bracket of claim 14 in which said channel and said tubular components include respective longitudinal axes that are oriented at obtuse angles relative to one another.

19. (currently amended) The bracket of claim ~~40~~ 23 in which said channel includes at least two holes for receiving a connector that is attachable to the beam.

20. (currently amended) The bracket of claim ~~40~~ 23 in which each receptacle includes at least one hole for receiving a connector that is attachable to the leg received by said receptacle.

21. (currently amended) The bracket of claim ~~40~~ 23 in which said channel comprises constitutes an elongate one-piece component that extends longitudinally beyond said leg accommodating receptacles.

22. (currently amended) The bracket of claim ~~40~~ 23 in which said channel has a permanently fixedly and generally U-shaped cross sectional configuration.

23. (original) A bracket for a multiple piece stand, which stand includes a plurality of elongate legs and an elongate beam supported on a substantially horizontal surface by the legs, said bracket comprising:

a substantially rigid and one piece, generally U-shaped channel for receiving the beam, said channel including a base and a pair of side walls attached unitarily to and extending upwardly from said base, said base comprising an elongate, one piece element that is substantially rigid and substantially planar and each said side wall comprising an

elongate, substantially rigid and substantially planar component, said base and said side walls including respective interior surfaces that are substantially flat and smooth for conformably receiving and interengaging the elongate beam; and

a pair of leg accommodating receptacles fixedly and rigidly interconnected to one another through said channel, said receptacles including a first receptacle fixedly joined to said channel and having a first recess for interengaging said base and a first one of said side walls of said channel, and a second receptacle fixedly joined to said channel and having a second recess for interengaging said base and a second one of the side walls of said channel, said first and second receptacles being juxtaposed along and extending divergently from said channel at a fixed angle relative to one another, each receptacle being capable of receiving a respective leg, which legs are engagable with the substantially horizontal surface to support the beam above the substantially horizontal surface.

24. (currently amended) A bracket system for a multiple piece stand, which stand includes a plurality of elongate legs and an elongate beam supported on a substantially horizontal surface by the legs, said bracket system comprising:

a first bracket including a substantially rigid first channel for receiving the beam, said first channel including a first base and a first pair of side walls attached unitarily to and extending upwardly from said first base, and a first pair of leg accommodating receptacles fixedly and rigidly interconnected to one another through said first channel including a first receptacle that has a first recess for interengaging said base and one of said side walls of said first channel and a second receptacle that has a second recess for interengaging said base and the other of said side walls of said first channel, said first and

second receptacles of said first bracket being juxtaposed along and extending divergently from said first channel at a fixed angle relative to one another, and

a second bracket including a substantially rigid second channel for receiving the beam, said second channel including a second base and a second pair of side walls attached unitarily to and extending upwardly from said second base, and a second pair of leg accommodating receptacles fixedly and rigidly interconnected to one another through said second channel and including a third receptacle that has a third recess for interengaging said second base and one of said side walls of said second channel and a fourth receptacle that has a fourth recess for interengaging said second base and the other side wall of said second channel, said third and fourth receptacles of said second bracket being juxtaposed along and extending divergently from said second channel at a fixed angle relative to one another;

each of said receptacles of said first and second brackets being capable of receiving a respective leg, which legs are engagable with the substantially horizontal surface to support the beam above the substantially horizontal surface;

each said channel having a permanently fixed and substantial U-shaped cross sectional configuration, said base and said side walls of each channel having substantially flat and smooth interior surfaces for receiving and conformably engaging the elongate beam, each said channel constituting a one-piece permanently fixed construction.

Claims 25, 26 and 27 (cancelled).